

GALLATIN GRUBBER

February 2019

Feb. 4 Program: Jay Visser

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m at Hope Lutheran Church on South 19th Ave. Our program will be presented by Jay Visser, owner/operator of Visser's Greenhouses. Jay will be talking about all aspects of his operation including how they decide which plants to start, the logistics of planting so many flats, how they attack problems they might encounter, etc. In the early-1970s, Jay Visser's father, Don Visser, constructed the first greenhouse on his property. At the time he started he had no plans to make it a profession, it was simply a hobby that he really enjoyed. They now have around 55 greenhouses covering over 5 acres. The family estimates they produce millions of plants each year – mostly decorative species, but also herbs and some vegetables – many of which are sold wholesale to independent retailers from Havre to Hamilton. This should be a fascinating talk by the premier producer of transplants in the state of Montana.

Refreshments: Yvonne Baskin, Susie Mathre, Cara Priem

Proposed 2019 Grants

After reviewing applications, the Club's Board of Directors is recommending the following grants, totaling \$19,248, be awarded in 2019. Funds available for grants this year—generated by market garden sales, the plant and tool sale and several generous donations—totaled a record \$19,250. However, grant requests this year were also a record \$29,248, \$10,000 more than the grant money available! Deciding what to grant and what not to grant was not an easy process. The board's proposal, shown below, will be presented to the membership for consideration at the Feb. 4 monthly meeting. (Details of the grants are on page 2.)

MSU Horticulture Scholarships	\$4,000
Montana Ag Live	500
Belgrade Senior Center	750
Bozeman Senior Center	2,000
Cancer Support Community	1,000
Eagle Mount	775
Fork and Spoon Restaurant	1800
Gallatin Rest Home	250
Gallatin Valley Farm-to-School	1,000
Gallatin Valley Food Bank	1,000
Irving Elementary	2,000
MSU Pollinator Garden	1,173
Sage Gardeners	1,000
Whittier School	2,000
Total	\$19,248

Planting Party 2/23

Our first garden activity of 2019 will involve planting onions, leeks, and shallots in the MSU Plant Growth Center on Saturday, Feb 23 at 9 a.m. The door is locked, so don't be late in getting to the door!! We will be planting approximately 100 four inch pots with 30 seeds each, so if you can count to 30 and would like to get your hands dirty, please plan to attend. Coffee will be served in the PGC atrium once we are through planting plus any eating goodies you would like to bring. We are usually finished by 10 a.m.

Dues Due!

Many members have not yet paid their 2019 club dues! Dues are a mere \$10 per person or \$15 for families. Mail to Janne Hayward, Treasurer, GGC, 325 Concord, Bozeman, 59715 or bring to the February meeting.

Proposed 2019 Grant Details

Horticulture Scholarships and Montana Ag Live. Funding these is part of our agreement with Montana State University for using the land where we grow our market garden.

Belgrade Senior Center — Provide funding for two additional raised beds and purchase of plants and seeds for all of the raised beds (10 total, with this grant).

Bozeman Senior Center — Continue funding the purchase of fresh fruit to supplement the Meals-on-Wheels program, which provides nearly 100 meals each day to senior citizens, over half of whom are living on fixed incomes.

Cancer Support Community— Continue funding their “Garden of Hope”, six raised organic herb/vegetable garden beds, aligning with their mission to promote and educate participants and families about healthy lifestyles during and after cancer treatment.

Eagle Mount— Provide funding to purchase a sink for their greenhouse to allow easier cleaning of vegetables, pots, tools and hands without going into the main building, making it easier and more efficient to work in the greenhouse with the participants.

Fork and Spoon Restaurant— Provide funding to partner with area farms and ranches to feature a regular supply of locally-sourced produce on their menu. Our grant will pay for three months of this program.

Gallatin Rest Home— Provide funding for bedding plants to landscape their grounds. We have supported this for a number of years.

Gallatin Valley Farm-to-School— Continue funding the operation of the Bozone Ozone Bus (aka BOB), a school bus converted into a greenhouse that serves as a mobile teaching lab, traveling to schools, camps and other community events.

Gallatin Valley Food Bank— Continue supporting the Story Mill Learning Garden, a project targeted at engaging young people in the joys and benefits of gardening.

Irving School— Continue funding for the school's participation in the Gallatin Valley Farm-to-School program and to construct three new cold frames in the school garden.

MSU Pollinator Garden— Provide funding to purchase a honey extractor and accessories to enable more efficient honey extraction.

Sage Gardeners— Continue providing funding for accessible vegetable gardens for disadvantaged seniors at senior facilities and at private residences. Over 500 seniors helped annually.

Whittier School's Parent Advisory Committee—Provide funding to add four additional outdoor beds to their school garden.